435

Table 5

A - Index of wholesale Prices in Damascus [1]

Year	Foodstuffs	Local Raw Materials	Local Manufactures	Building Materials	Fuel
1949 (Average)	100	100	100	100	100
1950 (Dec.)	95	140	108.3	107.3	83.2
1951 »	121.2	128.6	108.5	93.1	88.9
1952 »	120.9	111.1	95.3	96.5	88.3
1953 (Aug.)	101.5	104.5	87.1	87.6	79.4

B - Index of Retail Prices in Damascus

Year	Index No.
1938 (Average)	100
1945 (Dec.)	830.5
1946 »	766.1
1947 »	699.1
1948 »	662.1
1949 »	561.6
1950 »	477.9
1951 »	536.5
1952 »	632.1
1953 »	595.7
1953 (Aug.)	533.5

457

C - Dollar Rates in the Damascus Free Market [2]

Year	Dollar Rate (in Syrian Piasters)
1945	(Market not free)
1949	350
1950	370
1951	383
1952	369
1953	357.5

1 Ministry of National Economy, Directorate of statistics, *Statistical Abstract of Syria, 1951 and 1952; Monthly Statistical Bulletin*, October, 1953.

2 Ministry of Finance, Exchange Office, *The First Annual Report on the Activities of the Exchange Office*, tables 1 and 2, Damascus, 1953.

strains or to cultivate them in the Government stations in Syria.

3. The price of fuel is a major obstacle to agriculture and to the possibility of competing on the world market. While the price of a ton of mazut in the Euphrates area in Iraq is LS 21 its price in Kamishli is LS 175, i.e., more than eight times as much. The same is true to a lesser degree of the price of gasoline and kerosene due to excessive Government taxation. The Government used to refund to farmers a part of the taxes on gasoline and kerosene used in agricultural machinery, but it has recently abolished even this meager help.

4. The sale of agricultural machinery and especially of its spare parts needs supervision. Agents deliberately create scarcities during the period of greatest need so as to get the highest prices possible.

5. The system of transport from the combine to the stations needs complete revision. At the present time, farmers are obliged to use jute bags on the combines to fill with wheat. The bag is bought for LS 2 but is sold as wheat in Aleppo. Since the bag weighs 1.25 kilograms and the price of a kilogram of wheat is 26 piasters, the farmer gets less than 30 piasters for every 200 he invests in a bag. This means a loss of LS 14 per ton, without counting all the extra expense of handling on the combine, then on to the truck, then to the railway station, then on the railway and, lastly, discharging at Aleppo Station, then transporting by truck to the merchant's store. All this handling, necessitated by the use of jute bags is paid by the farmer to the amount of LS 4 per ton. Added to the loss on the bag it makes a total loss of LS 15. All this could be saved if transport could be so organized as to eliminate the need for jute bags.

6. The fluctuation and uncertainty of prices is a major obstacle to the continued progress of agriculture in Jazirah. The farmer who plants his seeds in October does not know whether he will sell his crop in July for ten piasters a kilo or for thirty. He lacks information on world prices and merchants take advantage of that and of the fact that he is constantly in need of money to buy a major share of the crop at low prices. But even if the farmer were informed about world markets, Government regulations constantly hamper the free opera-

operation of world trade in a way that has always worked to the detriment of the farmer. The Government has adopted and persists in the view that the farmers as a class are alone responsible for feeding the town population at reduced prices. The Government and its organizations like the O. C. P. and later the Mira have always forced the farmers to hand over large quantities of wheat at prices below the market level. Even the present Grains Office is doing the same thing in a different way. It stipulates that exporters of wheat should deliver to the Office half the quantity exported at 23 piasters per kilo in Aleppo, i. e., at a rate 25% cheaper than the market price. This reflects in the end on the price paid by the merchant to the farmer. This unjust imposition of the Office is in fact borne by the farmer and not by the merchant. If the Government feels its responsibility for the provision of enough wheat for the population at reduced prices, the burden should be shared by all tax-payers without distinction. The farmer should get the full market price and the deficit should be covered from the general tax receipts. This solution, while freeing the farmer from a chronic injustice, is not the answer to the price problems. Since the Grains Office has become a permanent institution, the farmer needs to know as far in advance as practicable what prices he is to expect for his crops. The major function of the Office should be not to devise means for collecting wheat from the farmer at reduced prices, nor to provide revenue for the Government by creating a monopoly of wheat export, but to stabilize prices and guard the farmer against sharp fluctuations from one year to another. This it must do by announcing its readiness to buy wheat at fixed prices for the next two crops, at least without claiming a monopoly. That is, the farmer should be guaranteed a minimum price for his next two crops and left to profit from free prices if the market situation allows it.

A concrete example of how Government policy is reducing the prices for the farmer, is the new decree authorizing the export of 200, 000 tons of wheat against delivery of 100, 000 tons to the Grains Office at LS 230 in Aleppo.

The exporter will proceed to do his account, in the following manner. The price paid by Italy is said to be $98 which amounts to LS 350. For three tons of wheat of which two are exported and one delivered to the Grains Office, the merchant will receive LS 930 or an average of LS 310 per ton. In order to make a profit of

435 15 percent he must buy his wheat at the port of export for LS 203-5.
656 This means about LS 252 at Aleppo for the farmer of Jazirah. And this is the price at which the market is stabilized at present, while if this imposition did not exist the farmer would have sold his wheat for LS 300-350.

648 7. The discussion of prices brings about a consideration of mar-
489 kets for the surplus Syrian wheat. During the French Mandate, and up to March 1949, Syria and Lebanon formed one economic unit. The first independent regime under Shukri Quwatly, which lasted until the first coup d'etat in 1949, preserved this unity though some friction did exist between the two Governments. President Quwatly was emphatic about the necessity of this union. Then politicians mentioned to him the alleged advantages which Lebanon had over Syria in the partnership, he invariably replied that the benefit from the partnership to the national Arab idea transcends in importance any material disadvantage resulting to Syria.

But aside from this political consideration, the union did present specific advantages to the Syrian farmer. Lebanon imports yearly about 80,000 tons of wheat. This is approximately one-third the quantity exported by Syria. Further, Lebanon had a customs duty of 50 per cent on foreign wheat other than Syrian. This meant that the Syrian farmer was assured a market for part of his crop at prices higher than world prices, besides selling Lebanon cheese, samneh, vegetables and fruit.

Whatever the economic advantages according to Syria in its new policy of separation from Lebanon, and they are highly doubtful, the Syrian farmer has lost a sure market.

In fact, the question of economic separation between Syria and Lebanon has never been examined as a purely economic propositon, but has always been mixed with considerations of national prestige and alleged Syrian economic subservience to Lebanon. This highly emotional language was designed to confuse the issue for the benefit of industrial groups, especially textile manufacturers who were crowded by Lebanese competition.

435 8. Another misconception shared by the Government and most
439 of the people is that Syrian prices of wheat should be governed by world prices. The fact is that Jazirah wheat can never normally

compete on world markets. The cost of production of wheat in the Jazirah by machinery is much higher than the cost of production in the major producing countries of the world, such as Canada, the U. S. A. and Australia. Since the average annual export of wheat in Syria does not exceed 250-300 thousand tons, and it is Jazirah which produces this exportable surplus, the rest of Syria taking care of internal consumption, the costs of Jazirah production become the determining factors. Some causes of the higher cost of production in Jazirah have been mentioned above. Others, such as the difficult transportation will be discussed later. But there is no doubt that unless the different defects controlling Jazirah agriculture are removed, and they can be removed by Government enlightened action, production will drop sharply when world prices decline as they might do if world tension is removed.

e. Two Types of Agriculture in Jazirah

It should be stated that two different methods of production prevail in Jazirah, cultivation by peasants using mules and cultivation by machinery.

1. Peasant cultivation accounts for perhaps 50-60 per cent of the crop, and machinery cultivation for the remainder. Both types suffer from some of the obstacles mentioned above, such as bad credit and transportation systems, bad seed, insecurity as to prices, and lack of agricultural guidance. But inspite of all, the peasant farmer will continue to plow his tract of land no matter how circumstances change because farming is his occupation and he knows no other. The crop he produces is enough for him and his family, and the surplus he sells to the Jazirah towns to feed the city people. The drop in prices will simply mean a lower standard of living for him and his family.

2. The cultivator by machinery suffers from causes in addition to those of the peasant. He is a capitalist who has invested his money in machinery, seeds, fuel and wages and he has to show a profit at the end of the year to pay for his investment and to live at a decent standard. His investment should give him returns comparable to other fields of endeavor, otherwise he will not continue in his present

7:Lewis S-5 (ca. 1940-45) 1948 MD1 Syria MD1

area. The English merchants who passed through the hills in 1678 noted that Jebel Bil'as was "covered with Trees, which, for the most Part, were the small *Pistacho*'s which the *Arabs* pickle with Salt; but eaten green, are good to quench Thirst"; and in 1691 they ascended a ridge to the east of Jebel Bil'as where the tree cover is now sparse and found it "cover'd on both Sides with great plenty of Turpentine-Trees," which grew "very thick and shady," several of them "loaded with a vast Abundance of a small round Nut."[15]

In spring, when surface water is available and the pasture is excellent, the hills are full of flocks; and several hundred thousand sheep, together with some goats and camels, pasturing each year for about three months cause much damage. Bedouin and peasant shepherd families burn vegetation on the spot, and woodcutters from Selemiya and the villages cut large amounts of the valued slow-burning pistachio wood. Vegetation has been destroyed in these ways since prehistoric times, but at certain periods the process has been quickened. Between 1914 and 1918 the Turkish authorities took great quantities of wood as fuel for the railroads. Local notables say that within living memory trees extended beyond Aquerbat; that is, several miles into the country now cultivated and treeless. The westernmost range, Jebel Shomariye, has lost all its woods, and a ridge to the east, which was "overgrown in some places" with terebinth trees in 1908,[16] is today bare. A new danger to the soil of the hills has resulted from the high grain prices now prevailing, the growing population pressure in the region, and the tendency of Arab tribes to settle down to agriculture; for now increasing areas of land on the western fringe of the hills are being plowed.

Malaria control on the plain must clearly be accompanied by soil conservation in the hills, and, ideally, both should be part of a larger scheme of regional rehabilitation. Such a scheme would cover, among other matters, irrigation, malaria control, vegetation conservation, farming practices, and grazing rights. It would mean radical changes in the region; it would require a large capital outlay; and it would necessitate government action of a scale and vigor practically unknown in Syria. It is impossible to discuss here whether such a scheme would be economically justifiable, or possible within the present social and political framework. One can only emphasize that some such comprehensive action must eventually be taken if the problems of the region are to be solved.

---

[15] "An Extract of the Journals" (*op. cit.*), pp. 132 and 143 [Miscellanea Curiosa, pp. 123 and 137–138].

[16] Alois Musil: Palmyrena, *Amer. Geogr. Soc. Oriental Explorations and Studies No. 4*, 1928, p. 44.

14:International Bank S-5 (1954) 1955 MD1 Syria MD1

A final comment must be made on price stabilization operations. At times in the past the government has intervened in the marketing of cereals in order to support the price or to protect the home market from the consequences of threatened shortages and excessive prices. Through the Cereals Office and its predecessor agencies it has engaged in buying and selling grain, and occasionally it has resorted to export prohibitions to safeguard domestic supplies. Under emergency conditions when the world supply of cereals is short, as in time of war or threat of war, such measures may be justified. Normally, however, it is better to allow the market forces free play. The history of government intervention in the market demonstrates that the government has often acted on the basis of information which subsequently proved erroneous in whole or in part. Frequently information on impending government measures has leaked out, giving windfall profits to privileged speculators. Above all, it is impossible in the long run to insulate the Syrian grain market from the world market. If there is a shortage in Syria and prices rise, some merchants will quickly seize the opportunity to import grain, and if world market prices decline, Syrian prices will inevitably have to follow if exports are not to be lost. On the whole it would be far better for the government to concentrate on the task of improving its crop statistics and to publish frequent and more reliable information on production and prices for the guidance of farmers and merchants. If emergency conditions arise, it will always be possible to authorize government intervention by special decree.

Projected Expenditures

We can now recapitulate the government expenditures in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry which are envisaged over the six years up to the end of 1960. Total projected outlays amount to around £S 336 million, or about £S 56 million per year. This represents a very substantial increase over expenditures in recent years which the mission has found difficult to ascertain but which probably have not averaged much more than £S 11 million a year.

14:International Bank S-5 (1954) 1955 MD1 Syria MD1

and administrative supervision of public utilities. Supervision ought to be concentrated primarily on the utilities of the small towns and villages which are often substandard in their equipment and operation and are most in need of technical guidance in standardizing and improving their equipment. In addition to discharging its supervisory functions, the directorate should work out long-range plans, including a properly phased plan for the establishment of a power network which would be helpful in determining the location and size of power plants to be established in the future.

Electricity Rates[25]

As power production increases, there will no doubt be considerable pressure to lower the rates now charged for electricity. The mission encountered much complaint about their present level and structure. The rates charged for lighting in the principal cities do not, however, appear excessive by comparison with other countries. Electricity prices in the small towns and villages, on the other hand, are very high, but the generation of electricity by small diesel units and exclusively for lighting is inevitably rather expensive. The rates charged for electricity used as power are definitely higher than in many other countries. In Syria the power rates are often compared unfavorably with those in Lebanon in particular.

Nevertheless, the mission strongly advises against a general reduction of electricity rates over the next five or six years. An adequate supply of electricity is more important at this time than lower prices for electricity. The profits of the public utilities must be safeguarded so that the needed expansion program can be financed from their own resources. This is particularly true of the nationalized utilities of Damascus and Aleppo which have been earning considerable profits. With the anticipated increase in power generation and some reduction in costs of production, the mission anticipates that the net operating income of these utilities exclusive of depreciation allowances may reach a total of £S 60 million over the six-year period 1955-60. Most of this sum will be needed to finance expansion and pay the indemnities for nationalization. In this way the government will be able to conserve the resources derived from taxation and to borrow for other urgent requirements.

[25] See Annex G, p. 422.

14:International Bank S-5 (1954) 1955 MD1 Syria MD1

651 and erratic that it seems unlikely that it would claim a large fraction of an increase from this source either. Additional taxes would of course apply on the consumption side, but some of the principal excise taxes are applicable to such commodities as tobacco, for which the demand may not be highly responsive to income changes. As for imported consumption goods, many are subject to customs duties of 15% ad valorem or less.

435 TABLE 7 Price Indices for Damascus and Beirut, 1945–53

(1953 = 100)

Year	Prices in Damascus		Prices in Beirut	
	Retail[a]	Wholesale, local manufactures[b]	Cost of living	Wholesale[c]
1945	140	—	131	156
1946	129	—	119	133
1947	118	—	109	120
1948	112	—	106	116
1949	95	97	100	95
1950	81	90	93	88
1951	94	107	100	110
1952	100	100	100	100
1953 (Jan.-Sept.)	93	85	95	92

[a] 19 foods, soap, kerosene and cigarettes.
[b] 16 locally manufactured commodities.
[c] Prior to 1950 foodstuffs represented about 90% of the total weight, of which wheat and barley alone accounted for 61%. Beginning in 1950, foodstuffs represent 48% of total weight.

SOURCE: Derived from data in *Statistical Abstract of Syria*, 1951–52, pp. 149, 152; *General Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* (Syria), Nov.–Dec. 1953, p. 33; International Monetary Fund, *International Financial Statistics*, February 1954.

651 Commodities for which it seems plausible to assume that import demand is fairly sensitive to income changes, and which are subject to duties of 15.3% ad valorem or less, include jewelry, watches and clocks, meat, milk, butter, cheese, oleomargarine, photographic films and papers and musical instruments. To be sure, certain other commodities are subject to higher rates, but it seems unlikely that taxes on these items would yield enough to add an important degree of flexibility.

The lack of automatic flexibility of revenue yield is a disadvantage to a country undertaking a program of economic development. Such a pro-

PRICES

MONTHLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES AT DAMASCUS, 1953
(Syrian Pounds)

435

Table No. 1

1 — ITEMS	Unit	المعدل السنوي Annual Average	كانون ٢ Jan.	شباط Feb.	آذار Mar.	نيسان Apr.	ايار May
FOODSTUFFS							
Wheat, Commercial	100 kgs.	34	40	37	36	40	42
Flour, «Zero» No. 2	»	46	50	50	48	49	46
Flour, with bran No. 1	»	39	46	46	39	43	41
Barley	»	22	27	28	25	24	22
Maize	»	32	34	34	34	37	37
Lentils, red	»	47	60	54	55	60	52
Chick-peas	»	39	43	39	41	41	39
«Hilbeh»	»	38	35	31	30	45	39
Bitter Vetch	»	31	29	38	36	28	26
Kidney beans, Homs	»	74	75	75	73	73	70
Rice, Jazira commercial	»	106	98	98	106	113	11[illegible]
Bran	Ton	162	179	175	174	171	[illegible]
Apricot paste, commercial	100 kgs.	114	76	77	94	106	124
Apricot, dried commercial	»	143	85	86	96	108	122
Treacle	»	66	62	64	70	70	70
Raisins	»	104	84	87	89	100	130
Nuts, unshelled	»	318	280	300	300	300	338
Pistachio, Aleppo unshelled	»	843	965	1,015	1,013	975	868
Liquorice, ground	»	29	25	25	25	25	25
Onions	»	15	13	13	21	30	20
Olive oil, local	»	253	247	245	253	248	251
Samneh	»	607	621	621	620	573	595
Eggs, fresh, commercial	C. 1440	133	214	184	142	129	108
Macaroni	100 kgs.						
Broad beans, baladi	»	54	60	59	50	60	59
Broad beans, baladi commerc.	»	33	35	37	33	34	34
Sugar, granulated	»	121	126	126	126	126	121
Coffee beans	»	504	472	464	470	468	470
Tea golden commercial	»	373	424	409	401	400	(1)375

(1) Second grade.

الاسعار

الوسطي الشهري لاسعار الجملة في مدينة دمشق ، ١٩٥٢
(بالليرات السورية)

جدول رقم ١

الصنف	الوحدة	كانون١ Dec.	تشرين ٢ Nov.	تشرين ١ Oct.	ايلول Sep.	آب Aug.	تموز July	حزيران June
١ — المواد الغذائية								
حنطة تجارية	١٠٠ كيلو	33	31	30	30	29	29	33
طحين زيرو نمرو ٢	»	43	42	40	40	46	46	49
طحين رسه بسبه نمرو ١	»	39	38	36	36	37	31	38
شعير ابيض	»	23	21	20	19	19	19	19
ذرة صفراء	»	26	26	25	26	...	...	41
عدس احمر	»	46	44	40	40	41	37	33
حمص تجاري	»	43	44	38	35	34	34	34
حلبة	»	22	21	28	31	30	28	35
جلبانة	»	29	27	26	26	26	24	25
فاصوليا (حمصية)	»	78	79	79	...	...	70	70
ارز جزيرة تجاري	»	112	106	102	113	111	113	112
نخالة	طن	170	165	164	139	130	150	163
قمر الدين تجاري	١٠٠ كيلو	135	130	129	120	121	125	120
تمر تجاري	»	200	200	200	200	192	125	100
تمر نوع تجاري	»	54	65	...	...	70	70	68
دبس جامد	»	125	120	110	...	...	100	100
زيت دوري مبخر	»	309	311	315	303	346	364	350
جوز قلب	»	835	787	700	727	746	741	734
فستق حلبي قلب	»	31	31	30	31	30	33	35
مرقوس مطحون	»	16	15	11	10	12	15	26
بصل	»	246	237	275	261	248	250	251
زيت زيتون بلدي	»	615	610	596	604	606	604	606
سمن دبيري	»	136	140	139	107	106	111	108
بيض طازج تجاري	ص.١١١							
معكرونة	١٠٠ كيلو	45	51	50	48	50	67	52
فول بلدي للاكل	»	35	35	32	31	32	26	28
فول بلدي تجاري	»	116	116	120	119	119	119	120
سكر ناعم ابيض	»	560	564	566	562	481	482	476
بن اخضر	»	(1)365	(1)331	(1)335	(1)325	(1)368	(1)376	(1)372
شاي ذهبي تجاري	»							

(1) باب اللي

PRICES

MONTHLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES AT DAMASCUS, 1952
(Syrian Pounds)

435

Table No. 1 (contd.)

ITEMS	Unit	المعدل السنوي Annual Average	كانون ٢ Jan.	شباط Feb.	آذار Mar.	نيسان Apr.	أيار May
2 — RAW MATERIALS							
Cotton «Texas» ginned	100 kgs	301	414	375	343	290	269
Hemp, raw	»	170	138	139	140	150	167
Hemp, combed 1st grade	»	257	212	213	231	246	240
Cumin	»	127	151	153	144	146	141
Aniseed	»	122	174	171	165	134	120
Sesame	»	102	124	123	110	109	115
Apricot seed	»	30	25	25	26	28	26
Olive oil, commercial	»	189	200	195	200	191	187
Hides, cow, light	»	508	525	522	525	525	525
Skins, sheep light	»	419	438	437	437	437	437
Skins, sheep in wool	»	290	350	...	...	300	282
Skins, goats	»	480	475	459	475	475	475
Skins, sheep	»	190	267	268	243	158	165
Wool fleece, greasy	»	220	274	262	226	183	187
Wool fleece, white washed	»	430	498	475	404	323	353
Wool, pieces	»	329	393	380	324	258	271
Wool, pulled washed	»	311	334	315	273	226	241
Guts, sheep	100 pcs	243	322	337	350	330	219
Guts, goats	»	114	152	168	175	163	109
Tobacco leaves, Abu riha	100 kgs	123	123	123	123	123	123
Tobacco pieces, Abu riha	»	30	30	30	30	30	30

435

الوسطي الشهري لاسعار الجملة في مدينة دمشق ، ١٩٥٢
(بالليرات السورية)

جدول رقم ١ (تابع)

الصنف	الوحدة	كانون ١ Dec.	تشرين ٢ Nov.	تشرين ١ Oct.	ايلول Sep.	آب Aug.	تموز July	حزيران Jun.
٢ ـ المواد الاولية								
قطن الكساس محلوج	١٠٠ كيلو	222	233	284	294	288	287	285
قشر قنب خام	»	196	215	263	276	270	276	269
قشر مطيب اول باب مضغط	»	327	311	297	272	251	251	238
كمون	»	112	110	110	110	110	110	122
بابونج	»	89	90	90	95	101	116	116
سمسم	»	78	83	79	72	103	111	120
بزر مشمش حب	»	31	35	36	30	31	31	28
زيت زيتون تجاري	»	174	168	181	190	196	190	189
نعل بقر خفيف	»	475	475	475	475	475	515	525
جلد غنم حور	»	347	400	400	406	425	432	437
جلد خروف بصوفه	»	...	...	...	...	...	285	277
جلد ماعز سختيان	»	500	500	500	475	475	475	475
جلد غنم مطيح	»	180	183	175	184	191	187	184
صوف جز وسخ خامي	»	231	240	228	218	210	198	185
صوف مغسول ابيض	»	475	482	469	435	421	468	352
صوف نثر مغسول	»	372	368	385	304	310	313	271
صوف شلاحي نظيف	»	425	421	402	340	290	228	242
مصران (طاقة غنم)	١٠٠ مصران	155	135	154	200	281	235	192
مصران (طاقة ماعز)	»	47	41	66	95	143	117	97
دخان ابو ريحة ، ورق	١٠٠ كيلو	123	123	123	123	123	123	123
دخان ابو ريحة ، نثر	»	30	30	30	30	30	30	30

PRICES

435

MONTHLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES AT DAMASCUS, 1953
(Syrian Pounds)

Table No. 1 (contd.)

ITEMS	Unit	Annual Average	كانون ٢ Jan.	شباط Feb.	آذار Mar.	نيسان Apr.	ايار May
3 — BUILDING MATERIALS							
Iron rods	Ton	590	670	659	636	622	611
Iron Angles	«	664	759	746	702	692	695
Iron sheets, black 1 mm.	«	1,084	1,270	1,250	1,250	1,215	1,131
Pipes, galvanized ½"	10 Mt.	16	18	18	18	17	17
Tin sheet, white	100 kgs	100	110	108	105	100	97
Zinc sheets, white	«	280	324	308	300	307	294
Cement, local	Ton	97	107	102	103	100	100
Cement, Belgian grade 1	«	220	209	219	221	223	220
Timber, Spruce	M3	219	256	227	233	222	220
Timber squared, «Qatrani»	Pieces	37	29	35	38	39	39
Timber squared, «Bayyasi»	«	31	29	28	28	28	28
Timber Canadian red	M3	449	455	475	450	450	475
Timber, Swedish	«	274	295	291	294	290	285
Timber, pine wood	«	371	400	389	392	385	381
Plywood, Bulgarian	«	645	712	694	686	686	662
Plywood, French	«	1,126	1,190	1,175	1,150	1,170	1,150
Plywood, Lebanese	«	568	597	597	556	515	500
Veneer wood, California	10 M2	43	50	49	45	41	45
Veneer wood, «Ajram»	«	74	67	72	75	74	73
Veneer wood, «Walnut»	«	19	25	21	20	20	20
Glass plates, 2 mm.	«	30	30	30	30	30	30
Glass plates, 3 mm.	«	47	48	47	47	47	47
Tin Ingots	100 kgs	942	878	905	906	920	922
Tin rods	«	951	903	930	929	933	933
Copper, round	«	518	625	639	594	575	525
Brass sheets	«	522	625	639	631	625	587
Lead ingot	«	164	199	189	186	179	174
Nails, large size	«	82	84	80	80	80	79
Nails, small size	«	102	104	100	100	100	100

الاسعار

الوسطي الشهري لاسعار الجملة في مدينة دمشق ١٩٥٤
(بالليرات السورية)

جدول رقم ١ (تابع)

السلعة	الوحدة	كانون١ Dec.	تشرين ٢ Nov.	تشرين ١ Oct.	ايلول Sep.	آب Aug.	تموز July	حزيران June
٣ ـ مواد البناء								
حلايد مبروم اساس	طن	522	529	539	545	564	583	598
حديد مسطح عريض لوايا	»	577	577	596	626	645	687	675
صفائح سوداء ٢ مم	»	910	875	913	960	1.031	1.090	1.108
انابيب مزيبقة ٢/ انش	١٠ متر	13	15	15	14	15	16	16
تنك صفائح ابيض	١٠٠ كيلو	79	102	94	92	99	107	107
تونيا صفائح ابيض	»	191	225	335	271	294	309	300
اسمنت وطني	طن	55	90	95	95	95	95	100
زجاج بجبكية خب ب	م٢	240	233	235	234	235	237	238
خشب شوح	»	196	202	200	190	203	215	226
لاث فنراني	الواحدة	34	...	42	40	36	36	36
لاث لباسي	»	40	35	33	33	29	29	26
خشب كندي احمر	م٣	443	437	437	428	428	450	475
خشب سويدي	»	249	253	283	257	266	276	282
خشب زان	»	336	338	344	345	363	370	382
خشب معاكس بخاري	»	620	596	567	587	611	634	656
خشب معاكس أفرنسي	»	1.050	1.056	1.050	1.113	1.112	1.147	1.150
خشب معاكس لباني	»	563	588	600	660	600	600	500
قشر كاليبتوس	١٠ م٢	32	35	35	46	50	49	43
قشر عجرم	»	75	73	75	75	75	74	70
قشر جوز	»	15	15	15	19	21	20	20
زجاج ٢ مم	»	29	29	29	29	30	30	30
زجاج ٣ مم	»	45	45	45	46	47	47	47
تصدير سباك	١٠٠ كيلو	1,013	1.006	978	945	938	948	940
تصدير نحاس	»	994	998	986	958	946	957	953
نحاس احمر مدور	»	440	433	429	422	502	503	521
نحاس اصفر صفائح	»	420	419	412	406	499	510	541
رصاص سكب	»	132	136	145	153	154	170	167
مسمار سايكل	»	86	85	85	85	84	79	79
مسمار شعايري	»	103	105	105	105	105	100	100

PRICES

MONTHLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES AT DAMASCUS, 1952

(Syrian Pounds)

435

Table No. 1 (concld.)

ITEMS	Unit	المعدل السنوي Annual Average	كانون ٢ Jan.	شباط Feb.	آذار Mar.	نيسان Apr.	أيار May
4 — MANUFACTURED							
Matches, «Crown»	10 Gross	32	40	40	40	40	40
Cotton yarn, No. 1 — 12	Bundle	22	24	24	24	23	22
Cotton yarn, No. 1 — 20	»	26	28	28	26	28	25
Cotton Fabrics, «Rabwa»	Roll	26	28	28	27	26	25
Cordage, No. 2	100 kgs.	207	165	165	168	180	185
Cordage, No. 3	»	168	130	138	144	150	164
Twine, No. 1	»	244	194	200	197	203	250
String, No. 1	»	381	329	322	345	355	346
Glue, brown	»	182	176	171	170	170	170
Soap, «Star Ituni»	»	201	214	214	211	200	196
Soap, commercial	»	128	150	150	146	134	128
Starch, wheat pure	»	92	98	96	93	92	90
5 — FUEL MATERIALS							
Coal, in blocks	Tons	146	179	165	150	149	145
Coke of coal	»	286	305	290	290	288	285
Fire wood, olive cut dry	»	70	65	68	68	68	66
Fire wood, apricot cut dry	»	59	60	60	60	60	59
Charcoal, in bulk	»	296	400	340	295	270	290
Mazout in bulk	1000 L	112	112	112	112	112	112
Fuel oil	Ton	69	71	70	69	69	69
Kerosene, in bulk	1000 L	193	200	196	192	192	192
Benzine, in bulk	»	320	325	323	320	320	320

Source : Ministry of National Economy

435

الوسطى الشهري لاسعار الجملة في مدينة دمشق، ١٩٥٢
(بالليرات السورية)

جدول رقم ١ التتمة

الصنف	الوحدة	كانون١ Dec.	تشرين٢ Nov.	تشرين١ Oct.	ايلول Sep.	آب Aug.	تموز July	حزيران June
٤ ـ المنسوجات المستوردة								
كيرت ماركة تايد	١٠ كروز	22	22	22	22	22	32	38
خيوط قطنية نمرة ١ ـ ١٢	الربطة	21	21	21	22	22	22	22
» » ١٣ ـ ٢٠	»	24	24	25	24	24	26	26
خام زبوة دمشق	الثوب	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
جبلي مشاقة نوع ثاني	١٠٠ كيلو	252	241	232	204	186	202	188
جبلي مشاقة نوع ثالث	»	216	200	191	175	168	174	157
مرس نوع اول سماكي	»	298	289	289	276	252	247	236
مصيص نوع اول عداوي	»	445	453	439	419	386	391	336
فراط اشقر	»	190	190	193	200	208	184	173
مايون نجمة اينوي	»	192	196	200	200	201	199	190
مايون تجاري	»	112	116	120	120	111	125	125
نسا حمامة خلقي	»	90	90	90	90	90	90	94
٥ ـ المواد المستعملة								
فحم حجري قوالب	الطن	125	125	140	148	145	140	144
فحم حجري كوك	»	270	275	280	292	292	289	280
حطب زيتون مكسر ناشف	»	90	93	93	53	50	56	68
حطب مشمش مكسر ناشف	»	74	75	69	41	37	47	60
فحم حطبي ستديلي راسه بعبه	»	280	307	300	285	278	259	287
مازوت سائل	١٠٠٠ لتر	112	112	112	112	112	112	112
فيول اويل	الطن	69	69	69	69	69	69	69
كاز سائل	١٠٠٠ لتر	192	192	192	192	192	192	192
بنزين سائل	»	320	320	320	320	320	320	320

المصدر : وزارة الاقتصاد الوطني

PRICES

435

MONTHLY AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES AT DAMASCUS, 1953
(Syrian Piastres)

Table No. 2

ITEMS	Unit	المعدل السنوي Annual Average	كانون ٢ Jan.	شباط Feb.	آذار Mar.	نيسان Apr.	ايار May
Wheat, finest quality	Kilo	37	45	42	40	43	46
Flour, «Zero» No. 2	«	49	60	53	52	50	51
Flour, with bran	«	40	45	45	43	43	44
Bread of «Zero» flour	«	45	48	48	45	45	45
Bread off our with bran	«	38	40	40	40	43	40
Burghul	«	52	66	60	59	57	57
Macaroni	«	73	79	76	75	75	75
Mutton, boneless	«	350	356	372	388	362	368
Beef, boneless	«	237	215	275	275	275	287
Camel meat, boneless	«	201	197	213	220	237	237
Milk, fresh	«	44	49	46	45	38	38
Butter	140 gr	78	90	88	83	66	68
Samneh, Deir-ez-Zor brand	Kilo	622	651	656	665	609	616
Cheese, white, local	«	248	252	266	229	189	188
Rice, commercial	«	111	100	106	109	111	110(1)
Olives, «Dan» brand	«	101	100	106	98	95	104
Olive, split	«	96	104	109	95	91	94
Margarine	«	159	200	190	183	169	138
Olive oil, local	«	253	262	248	242	243	251
Eggs, fresh	10 eggs	105	168	128	105	95	81
Sugar, granulated American	Kilo	123	130	127	127	126	124
Potatoes	«	31	29	40	41	36	36
Onions, red	«	23	16	20	24	43	37
Coffee beans, green «Rio»	«	529	517	496	490	485	497
Tea, «Golden» commercial	«	464	495	475	481	446	456
Soap, Star «Ituni»	«	213	225	225	223	213	203
Charcoal	«	38	48	46	43	31	30
Kerosene	20 L.	387	400	396	385	385	385
Cigarettes, «Bafra»	20 c.	60	60	60	60	60	60
Lentils, red	Kilo	65	71	70	67	64	64
Broad beans, «ilhlo	«	57	78	70	64	57	60
Halawa	«	156	161	165	164	159	164
Treacle	«	72	68	70	75	75	75

Source : Ministry of National Economy
(1) Italians, second grade.
(2) Second grade.

الاسعار

الوسطي الشهري لاسعار المفرق في مدينة دمشق ، ١٩٥٢
(بالقروش السورية)

435

جدول رقم ٢

الصنف	الوحدة	كانون١ Dec.	تشرين ٢ Nov.	تشرين١ Oct.	ايلول Sep.	آب Aug.	تموز July	حزيران June
الحنطة الممتازة	كيلو	34	33	31	31	30	29	38
دقيق درجة ١	»	43	43	42	43	51	46	50
دقيق درجة ٢	»	40	40	37	37	37	32	40
خبز درجة ١	»	44	43	42	41	...	45	45
خبز درجة ٢	»	40	36	35	37	37	33	38
برغل	»	50	45	42	41	42	41	53
معكرونة	»	70	70	70	70	71	75	75
لحم غنم بدون عظم	»	348	356	335	335	319	325	342
لحم عجل بدون عظم	»	275	253	232	225	237	240	300
لحم جمل بدون عظم	»	188	198	175	175	175	175	237
حليب طازج	»	54	54	51	41	40	40	37
الزبدة	الـ ١٤٠ غ	92	97	83	68	67	68	65
سمن دبري	كيلو	630	628	625	618	627	624	623
جبن ابيض بلدي	»	275	294	290	277	262	219	224
ارز انجاري	»	112	111	115	115	114	115	113(1)
زيتون دان	»	70	94	104	110	110	107	125
زيتون مخلل	»	85	100	104	104	101	106	96
سمن نباتي	»	160	161	144	133	145	143	135
زيت زيتون بلدي	»	266	265	262(1)	244(1)	260	246(2)	250(2)
بيض طازج	الـ ١٠	119	114	105	82	84	83	80
سكر ناعم ابيض امريكي	كيلو	115	120	120	120	122	120	120
بطاطا	»	34	31	27	19	21	22	26
بصل احمر	»	24	19	15	13	17	18	27
بن اخضر ريو	»	575	566	603	603	519	497	482
شاي ذهبي انجاري	»	450	406	435	440	497	505	460
صابون نجمة أيتوني	»	207	211	210	213	210	210	200
فحم حطب	»	42	43	36	34	35	34	30
زيت نفط (بترول)	٢٠٠ لتر	385	385	385	385	385	385	385
دخان (بافرا)	العلبة	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
عدس احمر	كيلو	56	46	43	46	40	41	48
فول بلدي للاكل	»	50	53	50	48	43	55	54
حلاوة طحينية	»	135	148	147	140	158	164	162
دبس جامد	»	60	70	75	75	75	75	75

المصدر : وزارة الاقتصاد الوطني
(١) ايطالي باب ثاني
(٢) نوع ثاني

PRICES

● 435

MONTHLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES AT DAMASCUS, 1953
(Syrian Pounds)

Table No. 3

ITEMS	Unit	وسطي Average	كانون ٢ Jan.	شباط Feb.	آذار Mar.	نيسان Apr.	ايار May
1 — FOOD STUFFS							
Wheat commercial	100 kgs	27	31	29	31	29	28
Flour, «Zero» No. 2	«	37	44	...	42	39	38
Four, with bran No. 1	«	32	38	37	37	35	34
Barley, white	«	18	21	20	21	19	17
Maize	«	24	27	26	26	27	27
Millet	«						
Lentils, red	«	37	45	42	38	35	34
Broad-beans, edible	«	42	46	43	47	46	46
Broad-beans, commercial	«	28	33	29	28	29	28
Chick-peas	«	39	41	40	42	44	41
Hilbeh	«	23	30	25	27	26	23
Bitter Vetch	«	22	28	28	23	22	19
Kidney beans, Homs	«	92	85	93	92	104	...
Rice, Jazira commercial	«	106	115	110	119	114	111
Bran	Ton	145	180	180	180	139	140
Apricot paste	100 kgs	107	135	131	130	149	118
Apricot, dried commercial	«	153	200	170	—	—	—
Treacle	«	32	50	46	46	46	42
Raisins	«	109	125	100	114	123	125
Nuts, unshelled	«	283	298	289	283	295	295
Pistachio, Aleppo unshelled	«	983	811	838	874	1,069	1,026
Liquorice, ground	«	31	31	30	30	23	30
Onions	«	16	14	17	28	22	23
Olive oil, local	«	254	242	243	248	268	275
Samneh	«	476	587	516	455	454	456
Eggs, fresh	1440 eggs	121	133	131	126	115	101
Sugar, granulated	100 kgs	93	103	94	92	92	92
Coffee beans, Rio	«	540	538	540	555	553	545
Tea, golden commercial	«	360	325	316	315	334	338

الاسعار

435

الوسطي الشهري لاسعار الجملة في مدينة دمشق ، ١٩٥٣
(بالليرات السورية)

جدول رقم ٣

الصنف	الوحدة	كانون ١ Dec.	تشرين ٢ Nov.	تشرين ١ Oct.	ايلول Sep.	آب Aug.	تموز July	حزيران June
١ ـ المواد الغذائية								
حنطة تجاري	١٠٠ كيلو	23	23	22	25	25	29	29
دقيق زيرو نمرو (٢)	»	32	32	31	35	35	39	40
دقيق رأسه نمرو (١)	»	27	27	26	29	30	33	33
شعير ابيض	»	13	14	14	16	16	17	17
ذرة صفراء	»	21	21	20	20	22	25	24
عدس احمر	»	35	35	35	35	36	36	34
فول بلدي فلاحي	»	35	39	40	39	35	42	41
فول بلدي تجاري	»	25	25	25	25	28	29	28
حمص تجاري	»	35	34	35	35	35	40	42
حلبة	»	22	20	20	20	21	21	21
جلبانة	»	21	20	19	20	21	23	20
ارز جزيرة تجاري	»	90	94	91	90	112	112	112
نخالة	الطن	110	125	155	140	120	140	140
قمر الدين تجاري	١٠٠ كيلو	90	85	85	85	87	90	104
تتوع بلدي مبخر	»	140	139	145	142	141	145	—
دبس جامد	»	53	—	—	—	—	49	46
جوز قلب	١٠٠ كيلو	276	271	264	262	262	288	286
فستق حلبي قلب	»	1,025	1,000	988	1,045	1,013	1,080	994
مرقسوس مطحون	»	25	35	35	35	34	34	31
بصل	»	12	12	11	10	10	10	19
زيت زيتون بلدي	»	217	250	256	264	262	261	265
سمن ديري	»	460	459	458	456	451	460	467
بيض طازج	الصندوق ١٤٤٠	144	135	126	119	113	113	102
سكر ناعم ابيض انكليزي	١٠٠ كيلو	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
البن الاخضر ريو	»	534	530	533	542	546	532	532
الشاي ذهبي تجاري	»	426	425	421	383	383	338	338

PRICES

435

MONTHLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES AT DAMASCUS, 1953
(Syrian Pounds)

Table No. 3 (contd.)

ITEMS	Unit	وسطي Average	كانون ٢ Jan.	شباط Feb.	آذار Mar.	نيسان Apr.	ايار May
2 — RAW MATERIALS							
Cotton, Texas ginned	100 kgs	242	228	233	247	238	236
Hemp, raw	«	182	155	168	171	179	190
Hemp, combed 1st grade	«	251	316	325	226	231	248
Cumin	«	96	111	119	113	110	110
Aniseed	«	83	85	85	82	85	85
Sesame	«	68	78	74	67	70	66
Apricot seed	«	35	30	35	35	35	35
Olive oil, commercial	«	178	176	173	180	196	186
Hides, cow light	«	489	475	475	475	490	500
Skins, cow dried local	«	276	285	283	282	280	280
Skins, sheep raw	«	338	328	325	325	344	350
Skins, sheep in the wool	«	300	...	300	300	300	300
Skins, goat	«	532	500	500	500	513	525
Skins, sheep in brine	«	191	182	180	179	180	180
Wool, fleece raw greasy	«	252	244	236	242	244	247
Wool, white washed fleece	«	525	495	536	510	519	508
Wool, pieces white washed	«	364	377	—	—	—	—
Wool, pulled washed	«	452	431	435	436	436	469
Guts, sheep	100 pieces	122	162	112	135	75	79
Guts, goats	«	39	53	45	30	25	28
Tobacco leaves, Abu-Riha	100 kgs	123	123	123	123	123	122
Tobacco pieces, Abu-Riha	«	30	30	30	30	30	30
3 — Manufactured products							
Matches, «Crown»	10 gross	22	23	22	22	22	22
Cotton yarn, 1 — 12	Bundle	17	20	17	17	17	17
Cotton yarn, 1 — 20	«	20	23	20	20	20	20
Cotton fabrics, «Rabwa»	Roll	22	23	22	22	22	22
Cotton fabrics, «Rabi'esh-Sham»	«	41	44	41	42	42	41

الاسعار

الوسطي الشهري لاسعار الجملة في مدينة دمشق ، ١٩٥٢
(بالليرات السورية)

4/435

جدول رقم ٣ (تابع)

الصنف	الوحدة	كانون١ Dec.	تشرين ٢ Nov.	تشرين ١ Oct.	ايلول Sep.	آب Aug.	تموز July	حزيران June
٢ ـ المواد الاولية								
قطن تكساس محلوج	١٠٠ كيلو	259	238	241	238	250	253	242
تنبر تنب خامي	»	164	193	186	191	182	198	207
تنبر قتب مطيب اول باب ممشط	»	214	273	238	229	241	223	243
كمون التصدير	»	85	80	84	86	85	88	105
ياسون التصدير	»	94	80	80	80	80	78	84
سمسم ديري	»	68	64	69	66	63	63	64
بذر مشمش حب	»	37	40	38	36	33	32	34
زيت زيتون تجاري	»	154	169	168	191	179	180	180
عجل بقر خفيف	»	460	500	500	500	500	500	500
جلد بقر ناشف بلدي	»	280	225	280	280	280	280	280
جلد غنم حور خامي	»	325	325	325	333	362	359	350
جلد خاروف بصوفه	»	...	...	...	...	—	300	300
جلد ماعز سختيان	»	550	550	550	550	550	550	550
جلد غنم مملح بشعره	»	202	195	210	210	205	188	180
صوف جز وسخ خامي	»	256	250	251	262	279	256	256
صوف جز مغسول ابيض	»	548	515	519	545	559	513	535
صوف نتر مغسول ابيض	»	363	355	359	380	382	310	387
صوف شلالي نظيف	»	501	440	445	450	456	453	466
سمران (طاقة اثنم)	١٠٠ واحدة	214	200	208	153	75	79	92
سمران (طاقة ماعز)	»	50	50	50	45	28	29	34
دخان ابو ربحة ورق	١٠٠ كيلو	123	123	123	123	123	123	123
دخان ابو ربحة نتر	»	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
٣ ـ المنتجات الصناعية								
اسربت ماركة تاج	١٠ كروز	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
خيوط قطنية نمرو ١٢/١	الربطة	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
خيوط قطنية نمرو ٢٠/١	»	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
خام ريوة دمشق	الثوب	22	22	22	21	21	21	21
خام ربيع الشام	»	—	—	40	—	40	40	40

PRICES

435

MONTHLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES AT DAMASCUS, 1953
(Syrian Pounds)

Table No. 3 (contd.)

ITEMS	Unit	Average وسطي	كانون ٢ Jan.	شباط Feb.	آذار Mar.	نيسان Apr.	ايار May
Cotton fabrics, «Khumasiya»	10 yds	20	22	20	20	20	20
Cordage, No. 2	100 kgs.	232	196	218	217	231	253
Cordage No. 3	«	197	150	173	190	184	223
Twine, No. 1	«	284	284	278	257	279	299
String, No. 1	«	424	421	416	388	426	418
Glue, brown	«	210	195	195	190	205	205
Soap, «Star Ituni»	«	192	190	186	191	200	201
Soap Commercial	«	101	110	105	109	110	106
Starch, hard wheat	«	71	90	79	75	71	70
4 — BUILDING MATERIALS							
Iron rods	Tons	437	493	459	435	435	463
Iron Angles	«	472	545	501	486	480	473
Iron sheets, black No. 1	«	697	810	725	760	725	710
Pipes, galvanised 1"	10 m.	12	14	13	13	12	12
Tin sheets, white	100 kgs.	84	83	81	84	81	70
Zinc sheets, white	«	154	168	165	166	168	168
Cement, local	Tons	81	85	81	80	80	80
Cement, white 1st grade	«	232	240	240	223	243	243
Timber, Spruce	m3	199	201	212	204	196	194
Timber squared, «Qatrani»	piece	45	41	44	45	44	45
Timber squared, «Bayasi»	«	35	34	34	35	35	35
Timber, Canadian red fir	m3	458	428	408	465	470	461
Timber, Swedish	«	254	249	266	272	261	263
Timber, pinewood	«	295	229	242	226	212	300
Plywood, Bulgarian	«	606	581	625	623	625	611
Plywood, French	«	978	1,050	1,050	990	981	969
Plywood, Lebanese	«	576	...	...	...	...	575
Veneer wood, California	10 m2	32	30	30	36	34	43
Veneer wood, «Ajram»	»	70	75	75	69	69	65

435

الوسطي الشهري لاسعار الجملة في مدينة دمشق ، ١٩٥٣
(بالليرات السورية)

جدول رقم ٣ (تابع)

الصنف	الوحدة	كانون ١ Dec.	تشرين ٢ Nov.	تشرين ١ Oct.	ايلول Sep.	آب Aug.	تموز July	حزيران June
دواسي خمائرة اصلي	١٠ برد	—	—	20	20	19	19	19
حبال مشاقة نوع ثاني	١٠٠ كيلو	234	243	222	227	244	244	255
حبال مشاقة نوع ثالث	»	201	211	189	222	212	209	202
مرس نوع اول سماكي	»	285	286	278	292	290	295	294
مصيص نوع اول ماعوي	»	444	443	428	437	406	420	435
غراء اشقر	»	240	220	220	220	214	203	200
صابون نخمة ايتوني	»	183	180	188	191	195	196	196
صابون تجاري	»	91	90	90	100	100	100	98
نشا حنطة يابس	»	64	62	67	70	69	70	70
٤ ـ مواد البناء :								
حديد مبروم اساس	الطن	398	410	414	416	420	444	458
حديد مبسط تربيع روايا	»	436	450	450	449	458	463	475
صفائح سوداء (١) مم	»	630	630	645	665	675	685	700
انابيب مزمتة ١/٢ انش	١٠ متر	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
تنك صفائح ابيض	١٠٠ كيلو	51	50	50	58	50	50	60
توتياء صفائح ابيض	»	140	140	140	140	160	130	156
اسمنت وطني	الطن	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
ترابة بيضاء نخب اول	»	227	225	225	222	222	232	240
خشب شوح	م٣	195	195	195	197	199	198	197
لاط قطراني	الوحدة	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
لاط بياسي	»	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
خشب كندي احمر	م٣	460	465	466	450	460	465	463
خشب سويدي	»	243	238	244	249	250	255	259
خشب زان	»	300	306	234	192	301	290	300
خشب معاكس بلغاري	»	600	595	596	596	600	600	621
خشب معاكس افرنسي	»	938	956	947	960	975	975	900
خشب معاكس لبناني	»	550	563	556	590	600	600	575
قشر كاليفورنيا	١٠م٢	29	28	28	28	28	28	45
قشر مجرم	»	75	75	75	67	65	65	65

PRICES

●435

MONTHLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES AT DAMASCUS, 1953
(Syrian Pounds)

Table No. 3 (concld.)

ITEMS	Unit	Average وسطي	كانون ٢ Jan.	شباط Feb.	آذار Mar.	نيسان Apr.	ايار May
Veneer wood, walnut	10 m2	18	15	18	20	20	20
Glass plates, 2 mm.	«	31	29	30	30	32	32
Glass paltes, 3 mm.	«	50	47	47	48	50	50
Tin ingots	100 kgs.	951	1.006	1.030	1,026	1,018	976
Tin rods	«	951	1,015	1,036	1,032	1,008	966
Copper, rods and plates	«	399	440	440	438	443	430
Brass, sheets	«	378	409	415	418	419	425
Lead ingots	«	109	118	114	107	110	110
Nails, large size	«	70	86	75	70	70	70
Nails, small size	«	92	103	90	90	90	95
5 — FUEL MATERIALS							
Coal in blocks	Tons	111	118	114	110	109	111
Coak of coal	«	205	258	235	244	218	205
Firewood, olive cut dry	«	80	88	82	80	72	71
Firewood, apricot cut dry	«	67	72	69	67	58	59
Mazout, in bulk	1,000 ltr.	109	112	112	112	112	108
Kerosene	«	191	193	193	193	193	191
Fuel oil	Tons	68	69	69	69	69	68
Benzine, in bulk	1,000 ltr.	317	320	320	320	320	316
Charcoal, in bulk	Tons	258	246	220	240	260	260

Source : Ministry of National Economy

الاسعار

الوسطي الشهري لاسعار الجملة في مدينة دمشق ، ١٩٥٣
(بالليرات السورية)

جدول رقم ٣ (تتمة)

الصنف	الوحدة	كانون ١ Dec.	تشرين ٢ Nov.	تشرين ١ Oct.	ايلول Sep.	آب Aug.	تموز July	حزيران June
قشر جوز	١٠ م ٢	20	18	15	15	15	15	20
زجاج ٢ مم	»	31	32	32	32	32	32	32
زجاج ٣ مم	»	50	51	51	51	51	51	51
قصدير سباتك	١٠٠ كيلو	648	640	648	673	—	—	840
قصدير قطبان	»	660	650	665	690	—	—	850
نحاس أحمر مدور والواح	»	369	350	350	355	325	410	416
نحاس اصفر صفائح	»	319	325	335	342	365	390	389
رصاص سباتك	»	102	100	111	113	108	110	110
مسمار شبابيك	»	65	65	65	65	70	73	71
مسمار شحاير	»	90	90	90	90	90	83	94
٥ ـ المواد المشتغلة :								
فحم حجري قوالب انكليزي	الطن	119	113	107	105	106	105	100
فحم حجري كوك	»	174	175	181	176	180	156	200
حطب زيتون مكسر ناشف	»	85	91	92	77	76	76	73
حطب مشمش مكسر ناشف	»	65	71	74	67	67	68	62
مازوت سائل الـ	١٠٠٠ ليتر	107	107	107	107	107	107	107
كاز سائل الـ	»	190	190	190	190	190	190	190
فيول اويل	الطن	67	67	67	67	67	67	67
بنزين سائل الـ	١٠٠٠ ليتر	315	315	315	315	315	315	315
فحم حطبي ستديتي راسه بعبه	الطن	280	255	270	260	250	280	260

المصدر : وزارة الاقتصاد الوطني

PRICES

MONTHLY AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES AT DAMASCUS, 1953

(Syrian Piastres)

435

Table No. 4

ITEMS	Unit	وسطي Average	كانون ٢ Jan.	شباط Feb.	آذار Mar.	نيسان April	ايار May	حزيران June
Wheat 1st quality	Kilo	29	34	32	32	33	30	29
Flour, «Zero» No. 2	«	40	47	45	43	43	42	43
Flour, with bran	«	32	40	35	35	35	35	33
Bread, «Zero» Flour	«	41	45	43	43	44	41	42
Bread, flour with bran	«	34	38	37	39	38	35	36
Burghol	«	42	51	45	45	45	41	40
Macaroni	«	67	70	70	70	70	67	65
Mutton, boneless	«	325	350	325	350	320	325	310
Milk, fresh	«	40	48	40	40	40	33	33
Butter	140 gr.	74	91	82	84	81	71	66
Samneh	Kilo	506	620	505	533	485	478	480
Cheese, white local	«	196	273	223	200	157	161	160
Rice, commercial	«	117	116	120	124	121	118	115
Beef, boneless	«	255	275	225	175	225	280	250
Olives, «Dan» brand.	«	79	62	79	80	78	75	76
Olives, split	«	85	81	96	88	86	78	75
Margarine, «Khumasiya»	«	190	160	161	188	197	189	194
Olive oil, local	«	267	280	246	256	260	278	274
Eggs, fresh	10 eggs	94	125	108	94	89	80	74
Sugar, refined granulated	Kilo	97	115	95	95	95	95	95
Potatoes	«	28	33	28	28	28	22	25
Onions, red	«	21	20	20	23	27	27	21
Coffee beans, Rio	«	574	595	575	600	595	581	570
Tea, «Golden» commercial	«	427	450	431	406	420	412	419
Soap, «Star Ituni»	«	204	206	200	205	210	210	204
Charcoal	«	34	38	35	30	31	31	30
Kerosene	20 l.	382	395	395	395	395	391	390
Cigarettes	20 c.	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Lentils, red	Kilo	45	52	52	45	50	43	43
Broad beans, edible	«	47	52	54	50	50	46	45
Halawa	«	120	135	125	128	120	120	119
Treacle	«	88	90	90	90	86	86	86

Source : Ministry of National Economy

الاسعار

الوسطي الشهري لاسعار المفرق في مدينة دمشق ، ١٩٥٣
(بالقروش السورية)

435

جدول رقم ٤

الصنف	الوحدة	كانون ١ Dec.	تشرين ٢ Nov.	تشرين ١ Oct.	ايلول Sep.	آب Aug.	تموز July
الحنطة المنقاة	كيلو	35	35	36	37	36	38
دقيق زيرو نمرو (٢)	»	35	35	36	37	36	40
دقيق رأسه بعبه	»	25	27	27	28	31	31
خبز زيرو	»	37	37	38	38	40	42
خبز رأسه بعبه	»	28	28	30	32	35	35
برغل	»	40	40	40	40	39	40
معكرونة	»	65	65	65	65	65	65
لحم غنم بدون عظم	»	220	225	225	225	306	304
حليب طازج	»	48	43	38	38	35	35
الزبدة	١٤٠ غرام	70	70	70	68	67	70
سمن ديري	كيلو	484	481	484	478	475	475
جبن ابيض بلدي	»	210	210	200	200	185	175
ارز اجنبي	»	110	113	118	116	117	111
لحم عجل بدون عظم	»	285	275	275	261	223	225
زيتون دان	»	70	78	80	88	90	90
زيتون مفتش	»	77	88	88	87	80	87
سمن نباتي خماسية	»	200	200	200	199	195	195
زيت زيتون بلدي	»	258	265	276	277	275	279
بيض طازج	العشرة	112	106	91	85	82	82
سكر ناعم ابيض	كيلو	95	95	85	95	95	95
بطاطا	»	28	26	23	22	30	20
بصل احمر	»	15	15	13	14	14	17
بن اخضر برو	»	582	585	574	563	575	580
شاي ذهبي انجاري	»	500	494	469	437	410	410
صابون نجمة ابتوني	»	200	196	196	203	205	208
لحم حلب	»	45	38	35	35	30	34
زيت نفط (بترول) الـ	٢٠ ليتر	380	380	387	385	380	380
دخان بافرا الـ	٢٠ سيكارة	60	60	60	60	60	60
عدس احمر	كيلو	45	45	43	37	40	43
فول ناشف	»	48	48	45	43	43	35
حلاوة طحينية	»	111	111	116	120	122	117
دبس جلد	»	50	50	60	60	64	70

المصدر : وزارة الاقتصاد الوطني

435
128

PRICES

The method of collecting wholesale and retail prices as well as the method of computing the indices thereof, are as follows :

(1) Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices : The list of items for wholesale prices is divided into five categories :

The first category : comprises 28 food items.
The second category : comprises 23 items of raw materials.
The third category : comprises 18 items of locally manufactured products.
The fourth category : comprises 30 items for buildings and constructions.
The fifth category : comprises 10 items of fuel materials.

The prices for these items are collected weekly, and a monthly average is calculated for each item. This average is compared with that of the previous month and a percentage is given. A geometric average is then computed for each category, indicating the change in price of the category compared with the previous month. By means of the «Chain» method, the index numbers shown on page 165 have been produced, taking the average of 1949 as a base = 100.

The index numbers of each category have been left without combination into one general index of all categories, pending the completion of a special study which will form the basis for an all-category index number.

نورد فيما يلي شرحاً عن كيفية جمع اسعار الجملة والمفرق والطريقة التي اتبعت في استخراج الارقام القياسية منها

(1) الارقام القياسية لاسعار الجملة

جرى تقسيم مواد اسعار الجملة الى خمسة اقسام :

يتضمن القسم الاول منها (المواد الغذائية) ٢٨ صنفاً ، والقسم الثاني (المواد الاولية) ٢٣ صنفاً ، والقسم الثالث (المنتجات الصناعية) ١٨ صنفاً ، والقسم الرابع (موادالبناء) ٣٠ صنفاً ، والقسم الخامس (المواد المشتعلة) ١٠ اصناف .

وتجمع اسعار هذه المواد اسبوعياً ثم يستخرج الوسطي الشهري عن كل من هذه الاصناف ويقارن مع وسطي السعر لصنف ذاته في الشهر السابق ويعطى نسبة مئوية . ويستخرج الوسطي الهندسي من هذه النسب ، كل قسم على حدة ، فينتج من ذلك النسبة المئوية لجملة القسم مقارنة بالشهر السابق . وبطريقة « السلاسل المتصلة » توصلنا الى الارقام القياسية الواردة في صفحة ١٦٥ باعتبار وسطي عام ١٩٤٩ يساوي ١٠٠

وقد تركنا هذه الارقام القياسية دون الخروج بها الى مقياس مجمل ريثما تتم دراستنا التي ستتخذها اساسا لتوحيد هذه المقاييس الخمسة .

435
128

الاسعار

(٢) الارقام القياسية لاسعار الفرق

لما كنا نحتاج الى القيام بدراسات وافية عن نفقات العائلة لنتمكن طبعا الارقام القياسية لنفقات المعيشة ، وحيث انه تعذر علينا حتى الآن القيام بمثل هذه الدراسات الفنية جهاز مديريتنا ولعدم توفر المال اللازم لهذا الغرض رأينا ان نتصرف في الوقت الحاضر الى تنظيم الرقم القياسي لاسعار الفرق لاهم المواد الغذائية .

ويجب التنويه هنا الى ان الرقم القياسي هذا لا يمثل تكاليف المعيشة لكافة المواد الغذائية اذ لا يشمل اسعار الخضار والفواكه بل يستند الى ٢٢ صنفا حسب الجدول على الصفحة ١٦١ من هذه النشرة وحسب التسلسل المبين في الجدول ذاته .

وتجمع اسعار الفرق هذه اسبوعيا ويستخدم الوسطي الشهري منها للوصول الى الرقم القياسي بطريقة « الوسطي الاجمالي » على الوجه التالي :

اذا اشير الى الاسعار بالاصطلاحات س ١ س ٢ س ٣ الخ .. للاصناف ١ و ٢ و ٣ الخ .. خلال المدة الاساسية واشير الى الكمية ، وهي بمثابة الرقم التقليلي المعادل ، بالاصطلاحات ك ١ ك ٢ ك ٣ الخ ... والى الاسعار حسب الشهور بـ س ١ س ٢ س ٣ لشهر الاول والثاني والثالث الخ .. فتكون المعادلة :

$$\text{الرقم القياسي} = \frac{\text{س}_{1}^{1}\text{ك}_{1} + \text{س}_{2}^{1}\text{ك}_{2} + \text{س}_{3}^{1}\text{ك}_{3} \ldots \text{(الشهر الاول)}}{\text{س}_{1}^{0}\text{ك}_{1} + \text{س}_{2}^{0}\text{ك}_{2} + \text{س}_{3}^{0}\text{ك}_{3} \ldots \text{(المدة الاساسية)}} \times ١٠٠$$

(2) Index Number of Retail Prices :

As it is beyond the means of this Department at present to conduct a family budget enquiry, on which to base the compilation of an index number of cost-of-living, we tended towards preparing an index number of retail prices covering mainly essential food commodities.

The index number of retail prices shown in the following table, is based on 22 items listed on page 161, of which 19 are foodstuffs and 3 are other essential items, namely soap, kerosene and cigarettes. Base retail prices are collected weekly and monthly averages thereof is used in arriving at the Index number by the «Aggregate» methods as per the following equation :

Where P1, P2, P3 etc.. indicate the prices of items 1, 2, 3 etc.. for the base period and Q21, Q3 etc.. indicate the quantities involved, and P1 P2 P3 etc.. indicate the prices in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. months.

$$\text{Index number} = \frac{P_1Q_1 + P_2Q_2 + P_3Q_3 \ldots \text{(for 1st month)}}{P_1Q_1 + P_2Q_2 + P_3Q_3 \ldots \text{(for base period)}} \times 100$$

الارقام القياسية لاسعار الفرق لمدينة دمشق لاثنين وعشرين صنفا من ثواني الضروريات (وسطي ١٩٢٨ = ١٠٠)

INDEX NUMBER OF RETAIL PRICES FOR 22 ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES IN DAMASCUS
(Base : Average 1936 = 100)

Table No. 5

جدول رقم ٥

Index Numbers by Years — الارقام القياسية حسب السنوات			Index Numbers by Months — الارقام القياسية حسب الشهور				
Yr. Year	الارقام القياسية Index No.	وسطي السنوات	Month	١٩٥١ 1951	١٩٥٢ 1952	١٩٥٣ 1953	الشهور
1939	108.0	١٩٣٩	January	536.0	622.1	595.7	كانون الثاني
1940	157.6	١٩٤٠	February	535.2	626.4	589.8	شباط
1941	261.5	١٩٤١	March	526.4	594.2	572.7	آذار
1942	334.5	١٩٤٢	April	515.4	605.4	553.3	نيسان
1943	669.5	١٩٤٣	May	519.7	596.4	536.9	أيار
1944	741.2	١٩٤٤	June	539.5	580.2	533.3	حزيران
1945	820.5	١٩٤٥	July	551.7	598.7	536.0	تموز
1946	766.1	١٩٤٦	August	545.6	574.7	532.5	آب
1947	698.1	١٩٤٧	September	563.9	572.7	533.5	أيلول
1948	662.1	١٩٤٨	October	607.5	585.0	528.7	تشرين أول
1949	561.6	١٩٤٩	November	613.6	594.4	523.1	تشرين الثاني
1950	477.9	١٩٥٠	December	612.3	604.7	524.5	كانون أول

Source : Ministry of National Economy.

المصدر : وزارة الاقتصاد الوطني

PRICES

435 AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES FOR 22 ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES AT DAMASCUS 1939 — 1953.
(Syrian Piastres)

Table No. 6

ITEMS	Unit	Weight	١٩٤١ 1941	١٩٤٢ 1942	١٩٤٣ 1943	١٩٤٤ 1944	١٩٤٥ 1945
Bread	Kilo	70	21,3	37,3	40,0	41,5	42,5
Sugar granulated	«	8	65,8	120,9	217,1	272,1	237
Rice	«	7	35,5	190,8	196,5	258,3	196
Burghul	«	9	27,4	78,1	109,8	95	88
Lentils, red	«	3	13,1	30,0	38,5	32	65
Broad-beans	«	2	14,9	68,5	100,5	54	65
Olive oil	«	5	100,4	183,5	216,3	260,8	401
Samneh	«	1	307,5	460,8	485,8	549,2	731
Mutton, boneless	«	5	103,3	233,3	362,5	441,5	386
Cheese, local	«	3	109,6	217,9	222,5	303,3	257
Treacle	«	2	24,2	66,7	107,0	75	70
Halawa	«	2	51	112	200	230	220
Olives	«	3	32	83,9	90,1	95	68
Eggs	10 eggs	8	47	95	115	114	120
Milk	Kilo	8	20,5	33,2	40,7	53,3	56
Tea	«	1/2	453,8	774,9	682,6	718	1,220
Coffee beans	«	1/2	136,3	144,2	180,4	155,4	313,5
Potatoes	«	7	15,2	30,6	43,4	46,6	33
Onions	«	5	6,5	20,7	21,3	13,3	31
Soap	«	2	78,5	151,5	188,8	234,4	228
Kerosene	20 ltr.	2	665,5	427,4	528,4	543,3	627
Cigarettes	20 cig.	15	15,7	24,0	37,9	45,8	58,0

Source : Ministry of National Economy.

الأسعار

435 ● وسطي أسعار الفرق الاثنين وعشرين صنفا من أولى الضروريات في مدينة دمشق ، ١٩٤١ - ١٩٥٣
(بالقروش السورية)

جدول رقم ٦

الصنف	الوحدة	التثقيل	١٩٥٣ 1953	١٩٥٢ 1952	١٩٥١ 1951	١٩٥٠ 1950	١٩٤٩ 1949	١٩٤٨ 1948	١٩٤٧ 1947	١٩٤٦ 1946
خبز	كيلو	٧٠	34	38	32	26	33	45	42.5	42.5
سكر ناعم	»	٨	97	123	129	112	112	122	170	334
أرز	»	٧	117	111	85	63	78	108	166	127
برغل	»	٩	42	52	48	34	44	79	71	78
عدس أحمر	»	٢	45	55	53	31	28	45	73	49
فول ناشف	»	٢	47	57	61	27	29	73	66	54
زيت زيتون	»	٥	267	283	265	220	249	328	374	345
سمن ديري	»	١	503	632	535	490	749	800	743	722
لحم غنم بدون عظم	»	٥	325	350	320	296	265	347	430	351
جبنة بلدية	»	٣	196.5	248	225	218	266	282	286	330
دبس	»	٢	58	72	59	57	64	53	68	65
حلاوة طحينية	»	١	120	156	149	137	150	158	165	167
زيتون	»	٣	85	99	98	97	107	70	65	66
بيض	العشرة	٥	84	105	94	71	90	90	120	130
حليب	كيلو	٨	40	44	39	35	46	55	57	57
شاي	»	١/٣	437	464	533	508	514	587	687	1,315
قهوة (خضراء)	»	١/٢	574	529	511	430	235	250	252	272
بطاطا	»	٧	28	31	34	19	25	50	41	40
بصل	»	٢	21	23	21	12	19	28	16	17
صابون	»	٢	204	213	238	199	240	296	335	312
كاز	٢٠ لتر	٢	382	387	400	401	457	430	445	590
لفائف التبغ بأفراد	٢٠ سيكارة	١٥	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60

المصدر : وزارة الاقتصاد الوطني

الارقام القياسية لأسعار الجملة في مدينة دمشق حسب الابواب الرئيسية

(وسطي عام ١٩٤٩ = ١٠٠)

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN DAMASCUS, BY GROUPS

(Average 1949 = 100)

Table No. 7 جدول رقم ٧

Months	المواد الغذائية Food	المواد الاولية المحلية Local raw materials	المنتجات الصناعية المحلية Local manufactures	مواد البناء Building materials	المواد المشعلة Fuel materials	الشهور
1952						١٩٥٢
January	121,4	132,7	109,2	95,4	92,6	كانون ثاني
February	120,3	131,3	108,2	95,4	89,7	شباط
March	121,9	128,3	106,6	94,7	86,3	آذار
April	125,0	117,5	106,4	94,3	86,0	نيسان
May	124,1	113,3	104,5	94,8	85,9	أيار
June	114,8	112,9	104,3	93,4	86,2	حزيران
July	110,4	117,9	104,6	93,9	80,6	تموز
August	112,4	119,2	102,5	92,9	78,5	آب
September	111,5	114,0	99,4	94,7	80,2	أيلول
October	114,2	115,0	97,4	95,6	90,1	تشرين اول
November	119,6	112,2	97,1	95,8	91,9	تشرين ثاني
December	120,9	111,1	95,3	96,5	88,3	كانون اول
1953						١٩٥٣
January	117,9	110,5	89,6	94,7	86,5	كانون ثاني
February	113,2	109,3	86,3	94,0	82,2	شباط
March	115,0	108,1	86,1	94,2	82,6	آذار
April	113,1	108,5	87,8	93,7	79,9	نيسان
May	110,0	105,0	89,5	93,6	78,9	أيار
June	107,7	107,1	87,5	91,3	78,9	حزيران
July	106,2	102,7	87,4	88,6	79,8	تموز
August	101,5	104,5	87,1	87,6	79,4	آب
September	100,9	110,7	88,4	85,9	79,6	أيلول
October	100,2	118,8	84,9	85,7	82,9	تشرين اول
November	100,1	117,4	85,9	86,5	82,4	تشرين ثاني
December	98,4	118,8	86,2	86,8	81,9	كانون اول

Source : Ministry of National Economy.

المصدر : وزارة الاقتصاد الوطني

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
SYRIA MD1

433 is a modern glass factory for window and mirror glass and for glass containers, with a total estimated annual capacity of over 14,000 tons. This enterprise has suffered from the fact that the sand has to be imported and also from being built before the necessary export market had been secured to keep its three ovens working. Flour mills are plentiful and more are to be constructed; the production of flour is about 400,000 tons a year. In Damascus there are two spaghetti factories and starch is also produced. Tinned fruit, jam, chocolates, and sweets are also produced in Damascus and there are factories for matches (output 45 million boxes in 1952), margarine, soft drinks, and shoes as well as a number of tanneries and workshops in Aleppo and Damascus. A paper mill has recently begun production, with an output of 4 million square metres of corrugated paper and cardboard boxes in 1952.

SYRIAN INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY

(Estimates for 1952)

Number of Factories	*Tons Capacity*
2 Cement	200,000
1 Sugar	10,000
1 Asphalt	variable
9 Edible oil*	12,000
68 Raw cotton ginning	600,000
3 Food preserving (major)	5,000
1 Glass (plate and rolled)	7,500
(containers)	8,000
3 Tobacco	2,000

* Olive and cotton seed.

(SOURCE: *Statistical Abstract of Syria, 1951–2*, Damascus 1952.)

[186] Industry contributes only about a half as much as agriculture to Syria's gross national product, but the spirit of nationalism has led the Government to give special support to local industries although not all are economically sound. As Syria lacks industrial raw materials, industries based on local agricultural produce should be encouraged rather than those which depend on imported raw materials and foreign markets.

Finance

436 The Syrian pound of 100 piastres (reputedly backed as to
648 60 per cent by gold and foreign currency) is linked to the French franc. Syria is a member of the International Monetary Fund and of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, with a quota of $6¼ million. War-time inflation subsided
435 by the end of 1948, but with the Korean boom in primary
439 product prices and the subsequent export surpluses and heavy

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
SYRIA MD1

435 439

investment in cotton growing, prices began to rise once more. At the end of 1951 rising import prices, coupled with the poor grain crop, were reflected in local retail prices, and prices continued to rise until mid-1952, when governmental action and steadier import prices had a salutary effect. Thus, generally speaking, the retail price of household goods has risen five or six times since before the war, and the currency in circulation has also risen despite the fact that the official credit policy has been restrictive; although the note issue is now only £S46 million higher than in 1946 (at 31 December 1951 it was £S248 million), bank deposits have increased from £S96·2 million at the end of 1949 to £S198·3 million at the end of 1951. At that date the currency was covered, as to gold 9·9 per cent, foreign exchange 6 per cent, commercial bonds 1·4 per cent, treasury bills 33·5 per cent, and state loans or guarantees 48·9 per cent.

651 652

Direct taxation on income and the land accounts for only about a quarter of the Syrian budget;[1] this is less than before the war, for the proportionate amount from the land has fallen from 30 per cent to about 14 per cent in 1950; the estimate for 1952 was 18 per cent. Receipts from customs duties have increased considerably and these, with other indirect taxes, have helped to make the burden less 'fairly' distributed. Indirect taxes are levied on sugar, petroleum, and other essential commodities. Budgetary expenditure since before the war has increased seventeenfold, and since 1949 the total annual expenditure has increased by more than a quarter; but whereas expenditure on health, education, and public works has increased only slightly, that on defence has trebled and accounts for over a third of total expenditure. Agriculture, with only 2 per cent of the budget, is insufficiently provided for and it is hoped that its share will be increased.

453

Banking is largely but not exclusively in the hands of foreign banks; La Banque de Syrie et du Liban (French) has the concession for the note issue, but there is talk of starting a Syrian National Bank; among other commercial banks are La Banque Nationale pour le Commerce et l'Industrie (French) and the British Bank of the Middle East. The foreign-exchange market has always been less influential than that of Beirut, but in this respect Aleppo is growing in importance. There is a recognized free market for exchange[2] in which merchants and Government alike deal. The official rate of £S6·19 = £1, used mainly for Government transactions, was abolished in June 1953 for all purposes except Government transactions with petroleum com-

457

[1] See table 2, p. 502 below. [2] See table 3, p. 503 below.

POSSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPMENT

Both in the Jezira and in the Euphrates region there is scope for widening the area cultivated and raising the yields, as the soil is fertile. In the Jezira the use of machinery could be extended—it is already increasing fast. Better livestock production could be achieved by greater use of fodder crops for which conditions are favourable: in the 'Duck's Bill' good clover grows wild. At present fodder crops are not considered worth cultivating.

In the Euphrates region there is great scope for extension of irrigation. But a large scale scheme would be costly because the river runs between high escarpments, which vary in distance between each other up to about 10 miles. To irrigate much larger areas it would be necessary to lift water over the escarpments. There are large areas of uncultivated land, particularly between Abu Kemal and Deir-ez-Zor. Even on the land already cultivated yields of wheat could be much higher: at present the yield is four to six times the seeding rate, and, according to local farmers, could be raised to ten to fifteen times the seed with better irrigation. The high cost of fuel oil is the limiting factor as it also is for tractor work. On the Khabur river improvement of the ancient barrages would permit an extension of irrigation.

It is in this area that there is real scope for a planned settlement of cultivators, with improved methods and a better system of land tenure. The obvious form for such settlement to take would be on the model of the Jewish co-operative farms, small holdings with collective use of machinery and working to a cropping plan; on the uncultivated land such settlement could be undertaken without incurring high capital costs.

So far as the Euphrates Valley is concerned, similar co-operatives based on communal control of water supplies might be started on a small scale. Large-scale irrigation here would be costly, and would necessarily have to be co-ordinated with the irrigation of Iraq. An immediate step needed is to reduce the price of fuel oil.

While it is easy on paper to see the possibilities of such schemes as these, it is not easy to see where in fact the motive power for them is to come from. They will not bring in quick big returns, which are what local farmers and landowners want: the district is remote and the main object of such investment would be a long period rise in the standard of living, in which the moneyed classes are not interested. Present-day Syria is not

A9:Dunn S-4 (1952)1952 MI Middle East
Syria MDI

COTTON IN THE MIDDLE EAST

248 442 CLASSIFICATION

Seed cotton is bought on three grades: good, medium, and low. On taking delivery the ginner inspects the seed cotton for grade and staple and directs it to storage houses adjoining the gins where an attempt is made to sort into grades and to mix the lots thoroughly before ginning.

Lint cotton normally is sold on a basis of four grades: No. 1, corresponding roughly to good middling; No. 2, strict middling; No. 3, middling; and No. 4, low middling. In normal seasons, three-fourths of the crop grades middling and above. Export sales usually are made on the basis of sealed samples or types, and some exporters will have as many as eight different types.

439

Table 25

SYRIA: Cotton Exports by Principal Destinations
September 1, 1951, through May 15, 1952

Country of Destination	Exports	Per Cent of Total
	Bales	Per Cent
France	66,900	48.1
United Kingdom	52,280	37.6
Italy	9,005	6.5
Spain	4,460	3.2
Poland	2,625	1.9
Germany	2,220	1.6
Belgium	656	.5
Sweden	610	.4
Netherlands	311	.2
Others	85	
Total	139,184	100.0

Source: Trade Reports.

435 PRICES

During the period of world scarcity in 1950-51, prices of Syrian cotton on the local market advanced steadily to a high of slightly over 70 cents per pound. Export quotations were even higher. Prices declined during the 1951-52 season from approximately 50 cents a pound to 33 cents in the spring. Subsequently, the price firmed somewhat and during the summer cotton was selling in Europe for approximately the price of United States cotton on a dollar exchange basis. Syrian cottons, however, have been sold for soft currencies, and the discount must be taken into consideration.

Prices between grade 1 and grade 4 vary about 12 per cent.

Various producers expressed the view that a world price of about 30 cents a pound would be attractive to Syrian farmers and probably would stimulate further expansion. A world price much below this level, on the other hand, likely would discourage production.

A series of studies made by a large foreign firm interested in investing capital in cotton production and processing in Syria found that cost of production was below 20 cents per pound when normal yields were obtained but was much higher in poor years, such as 1951-52.

453
652
434

Finance and public finance

The post-war period witnessed some important changes in Syria's monetary and banking system, in its foreign exchange system and in its public finances. The large increase in production, investment and commerce noted above had its counterpart in the development of the banking system 1/ and expansion of the money supply (see table 10), most of which has taken the form of bank deposits.

This expansion of the money supply in the post-war period has not been matched by a rise in prices. Between 1945 and 1949 the trend was downward. The discontinuance of Allied military expenditure, together with a sharp increase in the import of surplus, led to a sizable deficit on current account. 2/ Moreover, the 1945 and 1946 budgets showed a surplus, and although the 1947 and 1948 budgets closed with a deficit the amount involved was small. Investment remained at a low level. The Arab-Israeli war led to a large budget deficit in 1949; this was, however, offset by the very low level of investment and the huge import surplus. The index of retail prices of twenty-two essential commodities in Damascus fell from its peak of 831 in 1945 (1938 = 100) to 478 in 1949. 3/

435
454
454
434

During the period 1950 to 1954, on the other hand, prices rose. The large-scale investment in cotton, and the sharp increase in the quantity and value of exports of cotton and cereals, which led to a position approaching equilibrium in the balance of payments (see table 53), raised incomes. Subsidiary factors were pipeline construction, high building activity, 4/ and small budget deficits. The rise in import prices, aggravated by hoarding and speculation in 1950 and 1951, also played a part. The rise in prices remained, however, small in scale. The index of wholesale prices of raw materials in Damascus, in which cotton has a heavy weight, rose from 100 in 1949 to 111 in 1950 and 136 in 1951; the fall in cotton prices led to a drop to 119 in 1952 and 110 in 1953. Improved cotton

---

1/ Foreign banks account for the greater part of banking activities in Syria; in recent years several banks have opened branches in Syria and existing banks have set up new offices in the smaller towns. In the first half of 1954 seven new banks, mostly Syrian or Lebanese, were established, bringing the total to seventeen. The country is still, however, inadequately provided with long-term credit for agricultural and industrial development, a gap that has been only partly filled by the Government-owned Agricultural Bank and Government loans to industry (see above).

2/ It is difficult to distinguish between Syria's and Lebanon's shares in the trade of the customs union, but there is no doubt that Syria had a large import surplus. This was not covered by such receipts as revenue from petroleum companies and remittances sent by emigrants.

3/ Ministry of National Economy, Statistical Abstract, 1953. There was no index of wholesale prices in Syria prior to 1949; the wholesale price index in Beirut fell from its peak of 1,038 in 1945 (1939 = 100) to 641 in 1949.

4/ Authorized floor space for new buildings in Damascus increased from 56,000 square metres in 1945 to 166,000 in 1949, 209,000 in 1950, 162,000 in 1951, 210,000 in 1952 and 265,000 in 1953.

435
434 prices and greatly increased exports of grain in the first half of 1954, however, once more raised incomes and prices and at the end of October the index stood at 429. 1/

457 Syria remained in the franc area until 1949. Following the outbreak of the Second World War, two important measures affecting both Lebanon and Syria were taken by the Mandatory Authorities. First, an Exchange Control was established, to which all foreign exchange earned by residents of both countries was to be paid; this included the sterling and other payments made by the Allied troops stationed in Lebanon and Syria. Secondly, the proportion of franc bills and bonds held as cover against the notes issued by the Banque de Syrie et du Liban and its deposits increased sharply until, by the end of the war, it came to constitute over 95 per cent of their combined total 2/ However, from May 1943 until March 1946 sterling was made available in unlimited quantities to residents of both countries; and in 1944 the value of the franc holdings of the Banque de Syrie et du Liban was guaranteed against any depreciation of the franc in terms of sterling.

In the post-war period the inability of France to supply more than a small fraction of the non-franc foreign exchange requirements of Lebanon and Syria, together with its repudiation of its guarantee of the sterling value of their franc balances, 3/ caused the Syrian Government to take steps to establish an independent currency.

In February 1949 it left the franc area, and simultaneously an agreement was reached with France regarding the Syrian franc reserves held by the Banque de Syrie et du Liban. These holdings, which amounted to 10,204 million francs on 24 January 1948, were divided into two parts. The first, consisting of 7,015 million francs, used as cover for the note issue, was guaranteed in terms of sterling by the French Government for a period of ten years, starting in January 1946. Provision was also made for releasing this sum to Syria, in fourteen semi-annual instalments, by 1955. The balance of Syria's holdings, consisting of 3,189 million francs, was not guaranteed in terms of any other currency. After deduction of French claims on Syria, aggregating £S 23.2 million for property left in that country, the balance was to be deposited in a special temporary account, to be used for purchase of European currencies other than the franc, at the French official rates.

1/ United Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics. The retail price index shows the same general movement, with a lag. It remained unchanged in 1950, at 476, rose to 556 and 594 in 1951 and 1952, respectively, fell to 544 in 1953, and continued to decline during the first half of 1954, standing at 482 in June.

2/ Said Himadeh, "Tatawurat al naqd al suri al lubnani", Al Abhath, September 1945 (Beirut).

3/ Said Himadeh, "Hawl mashru al ittifaqia al malia al jadida", Al Abhath, March 1948 (Beirut). The French Government did, however, pay to Lebanon and Syria the difference resulting from the depreciation of the franc in December 1945.